

BEFORE  
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF  
SOUTH CAROLINA  
DOCKET NO. 2005-204-C - ORDER NO. 2005-650  
NOVEMBER 9, 2005

IN RE: Request for Extended Calling Area from	)	ORDER GRANTING
Bluffton/Sun City Hilton Head Area to Hilton	)	OFFICE OF
Head Island.	)	REGULATORY STAFF'S
	)	REQUEST FOR
	)	EXTENSION

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) on the October 25, 2005, request of the Office of Regulatory Staff (ORS) to extend the time to file investigation results for a period of fourteen (14) days. In the present docket, the Commission issued Order No. 2005-382 on July 19, 2005, requesting that the ORS investigate the costs of providing an Extended Calling Area from the Bluffton/Sun City Hilton Head area to Hilton Head Island and any possible alternatives to extended area calling. Further, the Commission requested ORS to file its report and recommendation with the Commission within sixty (60) days of the issuance of Order No. 2005-382. By Order No. 2005-487, issued September 9, 2005, the Commission granted the ORS an additional forty-five (45) days to file its report and recommendation with the Commission.

On October 25, 2005, the ORS filed a request for an additional fourteen (14) days to complete its investigation of the costs of providing an extended calling area from the Bluffton/Sun City Hilton Head area to Hilton Head Island and of any possible

alternatives to extended area calling. ORS states that due to unforeseen circumstances, the companies in this proceeding, Hargray Telephone Company, Inc. (Hargray) and Bluffton Telephone Company, Inc. (Bluffton), have encountered further delays in providing to the ORS the information it has requested in time to meet the extended deadline set forth in Order No. 2005-487. Attached to ORS's extension request, is a letter addressed to the ORS from counsel for Hargray and Bluffton advising the ORS that Hargray and Bluffton need additional time to respond to the follow-up questions posed by the ORS regarding the cost study filed on Bluffton's behalf. According to Hargray's and Bluffton's counsel, the consultant who prepared the cost study has been on medical leave thus the process of responding to ORS's follow-up questions has been hindered. Counsel for Hargray and Bluffton adds that the information requested by ORS can be provided soon; however, it doesn't appear that the information will be available by October 27, 2005, the date set for ORS's report to the Commission. Additionally, Hargray's and Bluffton's counsel suggests a two-week extension of time for ORS to make its report. ORS states its agreement with Hargray and Bluffton that a fourteen day extension should be sufficient time to provide the information required by the Commission and therefore, the ORS respectfully requests a fourteen (14) day extension to file the results of its investigation of the proposed extended calling area.

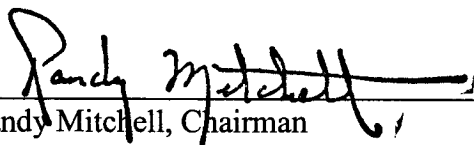
We have examined the ORS's request and the attached letter from Hargray and Bluffton addressed to the ORS, and we find the request of the ORS reasonable and that the request should be granted.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:


1. The Office of Regulatory Staff's request for a fourteen (14) day extension of the time set forth in Order No. 2005-487 in which to file the ORS's investigation results is granted.

2. This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Randy Mitchell, Chairman

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
G. O'Neal Hamilton, Vice Chairman

(SEAL)